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1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Helene Raybaud on 3/9/10.

In claim 1 lines 7-8 "a detector ... in the sample" has been changed to –a detector comprising one or more electrodes for determining changes in the electroactivity of said ligand, the amount of said changes being indicative of the concentration of the scaling ion in the sample--.

Claim 3 has been deleted.

Claim 4 line 1 "claim 3" has been changed to –claim 1--.

In claim 21 line 6-8 "measuring changes in the ... the ligand ... electronic configuration" has been changed to –measuring changes in the electroactivity of the ligand with one or more electrodes; and determining the concentration of said scaling ion from said changes in said electroactivity of said ligand--.

Claim 23 has been canceled.

Claim 29 line 1 "(previously presented)" has been changed to –claim 21--.

Claim 30 line 1 "(previously presented)" has been changed to –claim 21--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In addition to the remarks of record, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed method

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and apparatus that determines the amount of scaling ion in a liquid sample by binding the ions to a BAPTA derivative and using electrodes to measure a change in the electroactivity which is proportional to the amount of the scaling ions in the liquid.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LYLE A. ALEXANDER whose telephone number is (571)272-1254. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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